



Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
African-American Conference Presentation

Nola Brantley SPEAKS!

Advocating for a more empowered world for women & girls

An overview of Youth Sex Trafficking presented by:

Nola Brantley

Trainer, Nola Brantley SPEAKS!

Survivor

Local Statistics

- ▶ Los Angeles is one of the United States' 13 “High Intensity Prostitution Areas” as designated by the FBI
- ▶ Between 2010-2013 600 arrest for individuals under 18 for “prostitution” and over 6000 arrest for individuals between 18-24 18 for “prostitution”. The majority of the individuals arrested were African American females coming from histories of abuse and poverty.
- ▶ Since we started CSE awareness with youth in Juvenile Halls and Foster Care Group homes over 90 youth disclosed CSE
- ▶ A pimp can make **\$150,000-\$200,000** per child each year and the average pimp has 4 to 6 girls. ([U.S. Justice Department, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#))



The Curriculum: CSEC Community Intervention Project (CCIP)

Purpose of CCIP: To build the capacity of select communities to respond to commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) via the:

- ▶ Creation and facilitation of local working groups/task forces
- ▶ Implementation of a multi-day Training Institute in each community
- ▶ Development of a CSEC Community Response Plan

Founding & leadership: Started in 2006 with award granted to Salvation Army. CCIP was led by four main agencies:

1. The Salvation Army
2. Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS)
3. Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC)
4. Polaris Project



Module 1:

What is the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth?

*“It’s not a choice, no one just wakes up
and wants to do this. You can’t just walk away...”*

- CSEY Survivor

Activity: Language and Sensitivity



Language and Sensitivity

- ▶ Child Prostitute
- ▶ Teen Prostitute
- ▶ Hoe
- ▶ Fast
- ▶ Boy-crazy
- ▶ Sexually exploited
- ▶ Commercially sexually exploited
- ▶ Sexually abused
- ▶ Sexually assaulted



Changing the Language:

- ▶ Reframes the issue as a form of child abuse
- ▶ Expresses the philosophy that sexually exploited children deserve support services instead of jail sentences
- ▶ More accurately represents the scope of the issue and the reality of exploited youth's experiences
- ▶ Creates a common language to facilitate moving toward facilitating a community response plan

CSEY is....

The commercial sexual exploitation of youth (CSEY) is:

- ▶ Sexual activity involving a youth under 18 in exchange for something of value, or promise thereof, to the youth or another person or persons.
- ▶ The youth is treated as a commercial and sexual object.
- ▶ CSE is a form violence against youth.

CSE includes:

- ▶ street prostitution
- ▶ pornography
- ▶ stripping
- ▶ erotic/nude massage
- ▶ escort services
- ▶ phone sex lines
- ▶ private parties
- ▶ gang-based prostitution
- ▶ interfamilial pimping
- ▶ forms of Internet-based exploitation

CSE in the United States

- ▶ At least **100,000 to 300,000** youth are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation annually in the U.S. (Estes and Wiener, 2001)
- ▶ The average age of entry into the commercial sex industry in the U.S. is **12 years old.** (US Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section)

CSE in the United States

The National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Throwaway (NISMAART) children estimate that **1.6 million children run away** from home each year in the U.S.

One in three teens will be **recruited by a pimp within 48 hours of leaving home** and becoming homeless.

Addressing Demand

If at least **300,000** children are estimated to be at risk for CSE in the U.S....

who do you think is buying children for sex?

Addressing Demand

Pedophile

An adult who over a period of at least six months, has recurrent intense sexual urges and sexually arousing fantasies involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 or younger).*

Ephebophilia/Hebephilia

Adult who has a strong or exclusive attraction to post-pubescent child/adolescent.

*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, DSM-IV-TR.

Addressing Demand

Situational Abusers

Adults who use children for sex not because they have a predisposition to do so but **just because they want to or find themselves in a situation where it is possible**. Such men engage in the criminal activity of sex with minors (under-18s) without necessarily feeling any real sexual attraction towards them.

May be family men with regular partners and in every way 'normal' lives. For this reason they are particularly difficult to identify and **often are protected by those around them** who find it impossible to accept that 'Mr. Normal' next door - or their husband/brother/son - could possibly have sex with children.

Module 2:

Pathways and Precursors to CSE

*“Growing up for me was a lot of pain. I don’t know how
to explain it. It was just a lot of pain.”*

- CSEY Survivor

Youth at risk for recruitment into CSE are youth who:

- ▶ Are under 18 years old
- ▶ Walk to school or to the store alone
- ▶ Own or have access to a computer
- ▶ Are attracted to consumer goods
- ▶ Desire to develop romantic relationships
- ▶ Sometimes feel insecure
- ▶ Feel misunderstood
- ▶ Fight with their parents
- ▶ Sometimes feel their parents don't care
- ▶ Want more independence
- ▶ Test boundaries and take risks

Question:

According to this, who is at risk for recruitment into CSE?

Answer: **ALL Youth**

Risk Factors

Individual:

Abuse Especially Sexual Abuse, Homelessness, LGBTQ, Mental Health, Unaddressed Trauma, Learning/ Developmental Disabilities

Environmental:

Adult Sex Industry, Poverty, Violence, Transient Male Population, Proximity to Borders, Street Involved Economy, Substance Abuse

Social:

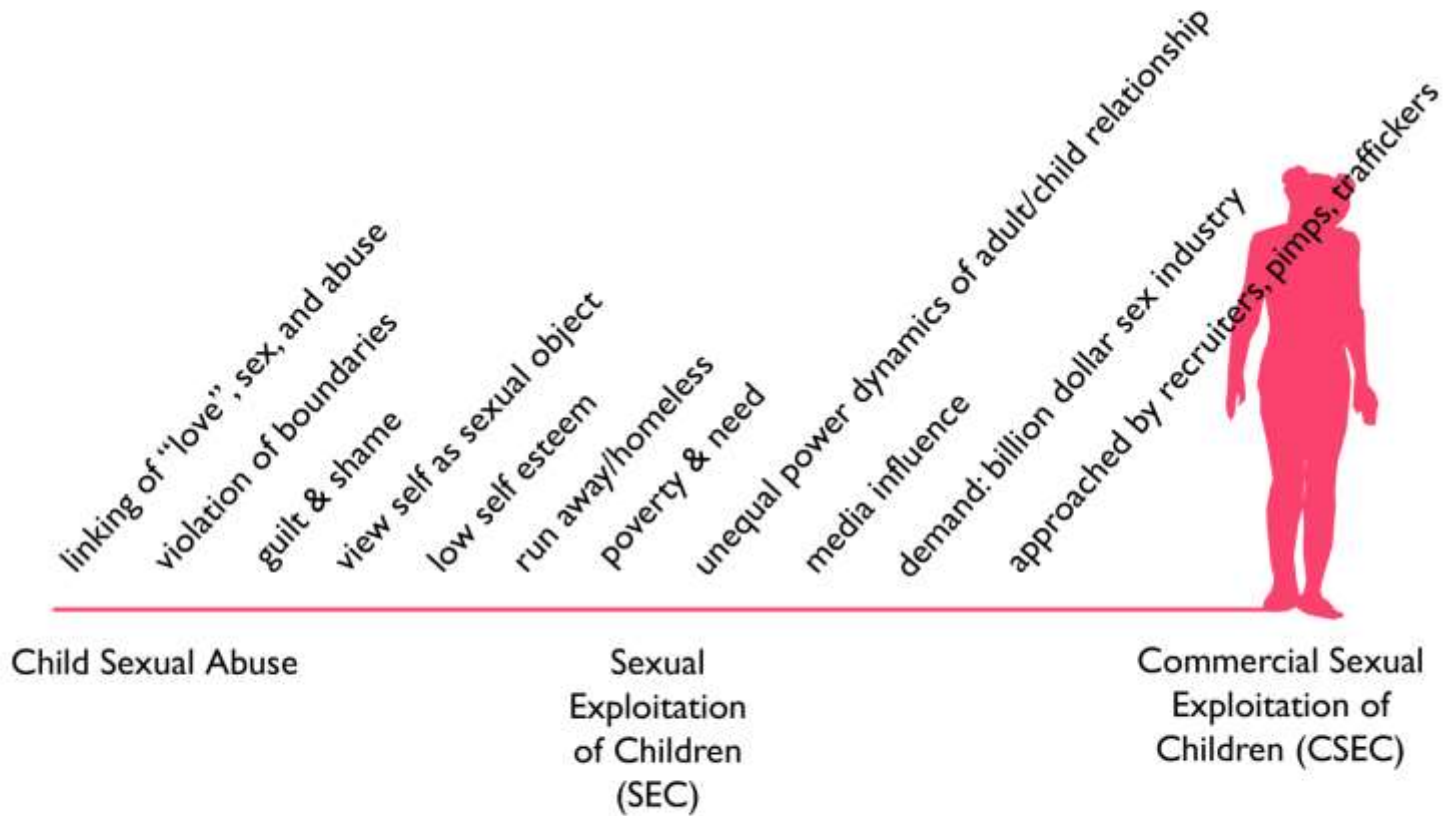
Racism, Sexism, Homo/ Transphobia, Over-Sexualization of Girls/ Boys, Glorification of Pimp Culture, Inaccessibility of Legal Economies, Access to Technology, Materialism and Consumerism, Acceptance of Violence Against Women and Minority Groups

Multiple studies estimate that...

70 to 90 percent of sexually exploited youth have a history of child sexual abuse.

1. Bagley, C. & Young, L. (1987). *Juvenile Prostitution and Child Sexual Abuse: A Controlled Study*. Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health.
2. *Annual Report*. (1991). Council for Prostitution Alternatives. Portland, Oregon.
3. Murphy, Patricia. (1993). *Making Connections: Women, Work, and Abuse*. Paul M. Deutsch Press, Florida.

Continuum of Sexual Abuse, SEC, & CSEC



Pathways to Entry

Ways recruitment can happen:

- ▶ Parents selling children
- ▶ Violence and force
- ▶ Kidnapping
- ▶ Seduction and coercion
- ▶ False advertising for “modeling,” “acting,” or “dancing” opportunities
- ▶ Peer recruitment
- ▶ Internet enticement through chat rooms or profile-sharing sites

Module 3:

Understanding the Impact of CSE

*“It’s an emotional thing when you’re in the life,
it’s an emotional thing when you get out. I’m
struggling with PTSD, every night I have
flashbacks, it’s hard to sleep”*

- CSEY Survivor

Psychological/Emotional Impact of CSEC

Disruption of healthy psychological development

- Self-concept, intimacy, beliefs and goals

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- Impulse to revisit traumatic events, intrusive emotions & memories, flashbacks, hyper arousal, exaggerated startle reaction, panic symptoms

Self-injurious and suicidal behavior

Dissociative disorders

Anxiety

Paranoia

Clinical depression

Explosive outbursts

Sleep disturbance & nightmares

Bond with perpetrators

Hyper-sexualization

Emotional Impact of CSEC

Anger and rage

Deep emotional pain/grieving

Feelings of humiliation/shame

Stigma of exploitation

Self-blame/Self-loathing

Loss of sexual desire, feelings, or response

Spiritual Impact of CSEC

Despair

Hopelessness

Lack of belief in humanity

Lack of faith in spiritual power

Physical Impact of CSEC

Continuous physical abuse

Rape & gang rape

STDs & STIs

HIV & AIDS

Loss of bowel control

Pregnancy (wanted and unwanted)

Sterility

Facial/dental reconstruction

Tattoos & branding

Brain damage

Substance abuse/addiction

Self-cutting

Suicide/Death

Social Impact of CSEC

Isolation from peer group

Disconnection from community

Isolation from mainstream society

Homelessness

Incarceration/Criminal record as obstacle

Disempowerment

Lack of life skills

Trust issues/Difficulty maintaining relationships

Obstacles to vocation

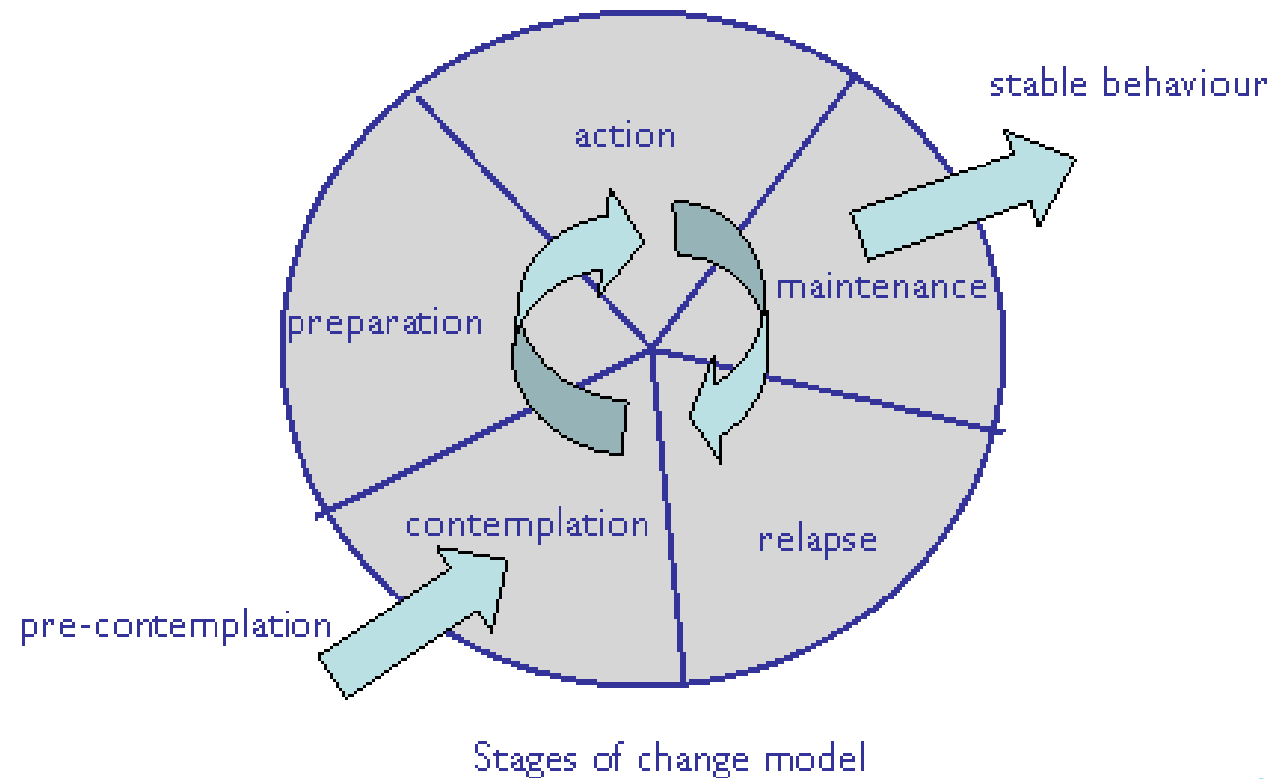
- Lack of access to legal economies, lack of job experience/skills

Educational deprivation

- Missed school, disconnection with school system



CSE Stages of Change



Connection between CSE and African American Youth:

- ▶ Throughout LA County and the nation AA youth are greatly impacted by child sex trafficking
- ▶ AA youth are over-represented in FC as previous abuse victims
- ▶ AA youth are over-represented in JJ as youth in need of supervision
- ▶ “pimp culture” is glorified by too many mainstream AA role models

What Youth Say Works



OJJDP CSEC Community
Intervention Project Curriculum

Thank You

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